

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A field grading material, comprising:
a polymeric matrix ~~provided with~~ comprising a filler, wherein the filler comprises a field grading effective amount of particles having at least one dimension smaller than or equal to 100 nm.
2. (currently amended) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein the filler comprises a field grading effective amount of particles having one dimension between 2-80 nm, ~~preferably 5-50 nm and most preferably 5-30 nm.~~
3. (currently amended) The field grading material according to ~~claim~~ claim 1, wherein said particles ~~comprises~~ comprise any semiconducting material having an energy bandgap larger than 0 eV and smaller than 5 eV, ~~preferably ZnO or SiC.~~
4. (currently amended) The field grading material according to ~~claim~~ claim 1, wherein said particles comprise any material where the bulk has a dielectric constant at infinitely high frequencies of at least 5, ~~preferably Al₂O₃, TiO₂ or BaTiO₃.~~
5. (currently amended) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles have an aspect ratio of more than 1, ~~preferably of more than 5 and most preferably of~~

~~more than 10.~~

6. (currently amended) The field grading material according to claim 5, wherein the particles having an aspect ratio of more than 1, ~~preferably of more than 5 and most preferably of more than 10,~~ are randomly oriented in the matrix.

7. (currently amended) The field grading material according to claim 5, wherein the particles having an aspect ratio of more than 1, ~~preferably of more than 5 and most preferably of more than 10,~~ are oriented in essentially the same direction in the matrix.

8. (currently amended) The field grading material according to claim 5, wherein said particles having an aspect ratio of more than 1, ~~preferably of more than 5 and most preferably of more than 10,~~ are provided in the form of fibers, fibrils, whiskers, flakes, ellipsoids or tubes.

9. (currently amended) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles constitute less than 40% by volume, ~~preferably less than 30% by volume and most preferably less than 20% by volume~~ of the field grading material.

10. (previously amended) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein the matrix essentially consists of rubber, thermoplastics or thermoplastic elastomer.

11. (currently amended) The field grading material according to claim 10, wherein the matrix essentially consists of polyolefin rubber or thermoplastic polyolefin elastomer/plastomer,

~~preferably including Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer rubber or silicone rubber, or of crystalline thermoplastics, preferably polyethylene.~~

12. (previously amended) A device for grading an electric field in high-voltage applications, the device comprising:

a field grading material according to claim 1.

13. (previously amended) A method for grading an electric field at a joint or termination of an electric power cable, wherein a body of a field grading material according to claim 1 is introduced in the cable joint or cable termination.

14. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein the filler comprises a field grading effective amount of particles having one dimension between 5-50 nm.

15. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein the filler comprises a field grading effective amount of particles having one dimension between 5-30 nm.

16. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles comprise ZnO or SiC.

17. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles comprise Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 or BaTiO_3 .

18. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles have an aspect ratio of more than 5.

19. (new) The field grading material according to claim 18, wherein the particles having an aspect ratio of more than 5 are randomly oriented in the matrix.

20. (new) The field grading material according to claim 18, wherein the particles having an aspect ratio of more than 5 are oriented in essentially the same direction in the matrix.

21. (new) The field grading material according to claim 18, wherein said particles having an aspect ratio of more than 5 are provided in the form of fibers, fibrils, whiskers, flakes, ellipsoids or tubes.

22. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles have an aspect ratio of more than 10.

23. (new) The field grading material according to claim 22, wherein the particles having an aspect ratio of more than 10 are randomly oriented in the matrix.

24. (new) The field grading material according to claim 22, wherein the particles having an aspect ratio of more than 10 are oriented in essentially the same direction in the matrix.

25. (new) The field grading material according to claim 22, wherein said particles

having an aspect ratio of more than 10 are provided in the form of fibers, fibrils, whiskers, flakes, ellipsoids or tubes.

26. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles constitute less than 30% by volume of the field grading material.

27. (new) The field grading material according to claim 1, wherein said particles constitute less than 20% by volume of the field grading material.

28. (new) The field grading material according to claim 10, wherein the matrix includes Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer rubber or silicone rubber, or polyethylene.